

ABC THIS WEEK WITH DAVID BRINKLEY

27 May 1984

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SCHLESINGER/ BRINKLEY: Mr. Schlesinger, Mr. Helms, thank  
HELMS INTERVIEW for coming in. It's a pleasure to have  
us today.

I'd like, first, to ask you the same question we've asked everyone else about this massing of Iranian troops we heard about this morning. I wonder if you could add anything to what we know about it. Mr. Schlesinger?  
JAMES SCHLESINGER (former CIA director): I think that the massing of the troops is not really much in the way of news. These buildups occur regularly. This one has been reported some time. Indeed, the news has been the slowness, on this occasion, in which the Iranians have moved against Iraq after making these threats for an extended period, and their turning to attacks on the tankers, which suggests that they think that they may have exhausted their possibilities for overrunning Iraq. It merely suggests that. HELMS: If they're going to attack, it seems to me in the next two or three weeks would be the time to do it for religious reasons. The holy month of Ramadan starts on May 31. Now in history, the prophet Mohammed had his first great military victory in the battle of \*Bagra in 624 A.D., so the holy month is alleged to be the magical time in which to attack the infidel, even though he happens to be lot of Moslems on the other side.

WILL: Mr. Helms, the conventional wisdom has been that Khomeini has the population base and the fanaticism to continue this indefinitely, but we just heard the ambassador from Iraq say far from being a religious fanatic, he is deep down inside a politician who knows how to make a deal and cut his losses. Is that your assessment of the man? Is this a war that can end with a conventional deal? HELMS: I don't think so, because I think the Ayatollah Khomeini has a blood feud with Pres. Saddam Hussein of Iraq. I really believe this. He sees that he, Khomeini, got the shah, he got Jimmy Carter, and he has every intention of getting Pres. Saddam Hussein, and he wants his head on a platter, and I don't think he intends to stop the war until he gets it.

BRINKLEY: Well, Khomeini was hiding out in Iraq and was kicked out, wasn't he? HELMS: That's right. That's one of the reasons why he's mad at Saddam. He's also mad at him for attacking his country.

WILL: Mr. Schlesinger, you said in several interviews recently that the United States must think now about what

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